

## **Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**

**August 24, 2025 Surviving in the wilderness. This is who we are.**

### **I Intro.**

This Sunday was our church-wide fellowship. So, we had a shorter service and a very short message. This devotional will only have the brief notes from that service. We'll be back with a full service next week. Also, many of our ministries and activities have started back up. And you'll see more and more opportunities for you to participate in the life of NCC. So, stay connected to our social media to keep up with everything that's happening. We're glad you've chosen to join us as we move through 2025. Welcome to our companion devotional to Sunday's message. It's just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don't want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

### **II Recap.**

**Premise for this series: "Surviving in the wilderness".** There are times in our lives we feel lost, uncertain, disoriented, not sure what we should do. We call this 'The Wilderness'. It often feels like we are wandering looking for something familiar or meaningful that would help us get back on course. It is in this felt place of wandering in the wilderness, a place of disorientation and uncertainty, we want to help you to find hope, and sacredness and a way to restore and reorder your world to make it out of the wilderness. And to discover who you will become as you move through the wilderness.

### **III Sunday.**

One question to start today: **"What do you want to be known for?"**

Okay two questions: **"How do you want to be remembered?"**

In our wandering in the wilderness to give us a solid foundation, we have to come back to these two questions. The answers to these questions will hold us in place, give us a focused goal and purpose to keep us moving in the right direction as we wander through our wilderness. The two questions we asked earlier are linked to these next two questions that we'll ask and answer. The answers to these questions will keep us centered, and focused, grounded and purposeful, as we wander through our wilderness. I'm asking these questions in the plural because we're all doing this together.

**1. Who are we?** We need to be reminded who we are. So, when everything around us is changing and unfamiliar, we feel disoriented, we will always be able to remember who we are. Which will be our constant to hold us secure. This is a mantra we constantly repeat to ourselves.

**Exodus 19:5-6** Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

The important phrases jump out at us. We are covenantal people. We are in a defined relationship of love with God. We will be a people who can approach God in the middle of our wandering. We are called apart to live differently than the rest of the world. Not to be better than others, but just be in a personal relationship with God. Jesus said his kingdom was not of this world. This is not an earthly, governmental structure. **Who are we?** We are brothers and sisters in the Kingdom of God. Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We live as holy people deeply connected to God.

**2. What are we to be about?** So, once we understand and embrace who we are, we then ask; “*For what purpose are we set aside as a holy people?*”

**Isaiah 42:6-7** “I, the LORD, have called you to **demonstrate my righteousness**. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, **as a symbol of my covenant with them**. And you will be a **light to guide the nations**.

**You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.**

We’re not to be holy just for the sake of being holy. Being holy is not an end in and of itself. We set ourselves aside for a particular purpose, a specific reason, an important work. **We reflect who God is.** **We live as an example of God’s goodness, kindness, righteousness.** (justice). **We model what it means to live covenantally with God.** **We will be light.** We will help others see better. And our work is about freedom and liberation. **We’re always a shining light to help others be free from what keeps them in bondage.** We learn how to survive in the wilderness so we can help others in their wilderness.

#### **IV Challenge.**

So, in our wandering in the wilderness. When we’re disoriented, uncertain, feeling displaced, lost. We cannot find our bearings, or figure out where we should go. All we have to do is remember **who we are. And what we’re to be about.** And that will hold us in place no matter what.

So, when you’re in your wilderness. Never forget who we are, and what we’re to be about.